

This letter is late because the site would not allow me to access the public filing link up until now

Written 5-23-03

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing you in lieu of the upcoming vote on media regulation. As June 2nd grows closer, it has become increasingly apparent that there is nothing that anyone can do to stop the inevitable outcome of this vote. This puzzles me because there are MANY people who do not wish for the rules to be changed. It is bad enough that there are only a few corporations in charge of our media, this further deregulation has potential to lead to larger, more powerful, more monopolistic media companies and it would lead to larger and stronger institutions of social control. This is a very scary thought because diversity in the media is something that many people count on and enjoy. Not only that, but by having only a few companies in charge of our news and media, much of what the public sees and hears will most likely be very biased. This will leave NO room for the opponent to fairly state their views, or broadcast what they want. Many corporations will be bought out and there will be no more independent media. Michael Powell claims that it is in the spirit of competition, but I would really like to know, if there are NO companies left to compete against, how will competition increase?

The other piece of this puzzle that not only bothers, but confuses me is that the FCC is legally supposed to serve the public interest, however, it does not seem that the public is at ALL interested in seeing media conglomerates grow bigger. As was seen on Lou Dobbs Moneyline, 98% of viewers believe that too few corporations own too many outlets of media, and only 2%, most likely those who will gain monetarily and people currently involved in mass media, disagree. Already there have been problems with Fox News being a total lapdog to the US government, now they would have the chance to become cheerleaders with unprecedented media permeation. Also, I find it a bit odd that there was NO time allotted for public comment, and almost no mainstream media coverage on this topic. I may have said I find

it odd, but that doesn't mean it really surprises me. Those on the committee don't have anything to lose when they pass this decision, while we, the public, have plenty to lose.

I believe that this decision should be delayed and have more input from the public, and if not that, than more input from those who oppose it. I strongly recommend listening to the public--we are who you are serving. It is awful that in a democracy, something like this would be allowed to pass. The people have no choice in what gets programmed on television, broadcast on radios, printed in newspapers, etc. All because a few politicians want to save their own asses.

Thank you for your time.